(b) if so, the details thereof and the year from which the NCERT science books would be accompanied by CDs; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) National Council of Educational Research and Training's (NCERT's) main focus is on providing suitable textbooks to facilitate in-depth learning by students.

Report on children out of school

284. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to State:

(a) whether it has been stated in the Education for All Global Monitoring Report, 2007 that there are 23 million children out of school in the country; and

(b) if so, the State-wise details thereof and the concrete steps proposed to be taken by Government to ensure schooling of all the children in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) The UNESCO's Education for All Global Monitoring Report, 2007, *inter alia,* states that four countries alone, *viz*, Nigeria (8.1 million), Pakistan (6.5 million), India (4.6 million) and Ethiopia (3.4 million), taken together account for about 23 million out of school children as on 2004. The Steps being taken by Government to ensure schooling of all children in the country include flagships programmes like Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Mid-Day Meal Scheme and targeted initiative such as Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidhyalaya Scheme, Mahila Samakhya Scheme, National Programme for Education of Girls at the Elementary Level, Education Guarantee Scheme, etc.